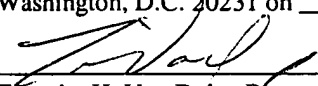


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Timothy H. Van Dyke, Patent Attorney



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Grooms & Mills

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Application No: 09/960,256

Filed: 9/20/2001

Title: METHOD OF PREPARING AND PROCESSING
TRANSPLANT TISSUE

Docket No: RTI-128R

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Dear Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

In the specification:

Please add the following new text on page 1 as paragraph one and two of the
specification:

"CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION:

a' This application claims the benefit under 35 USC §119(e) of Provisional Application No:
60/234,013 filed September 20, 2000.

#5/200360
m/s
3/15/02
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